

*Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee to testify on an issue that is incredibly important to my constituents and South Texas – the need for a direct, nonstop flight between San Antonio International Airport (SAT) and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).*

*San Antonio and Bexar County are home to 80,000 active-duty service members, 159,000 veterans, and Joint Base San Antonio – which is why we call it “Military City USA.” San Antonio is also home to the second largest cybersecurity community in the country, outside of Washington, D.C*

*San Antonio’s defense, veteran, and cybersecurity presence, in addition to its robust business community, means there is significant travel demand to and from San Antonio and Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, there is no nonstop flight between SAT and DCA – the closest airport to both the Pentagon and downtown Washington, D.C.*

*Multiple airlines have expressed serious interest in operating a direct flight between SAT and DCA, but the federal slot and perimeter rules for DCA have precluded them from doing so. As such, I look forward to working with the committee, my colleagues in the San Antonio delegation, and the rest of Congress to ensure we reach a legislative solution to this problem.*